THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST . MICHAEL ALNWICK

THE EUCHARIST ON SAINTS DAYS

COMMON WORSHIP

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TH E SAI NTS

No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death. As Charles Wesley wrote:

One family, we dwell in him, one Church, above, beneath;

though now divided by the stream,

the narrow stream of death.

Some saints are well known and their faithfulness to the Gospel well recorded. Others, we know much less about; but their example, their manner of life and their continuing influence ensure that they are not forgotten by the Church.

In this part of the world we rejoice particularly in the 'Northern Saints' — Cuthbert, Aidan, Hilda and Ebba, to name but a few.

Through the ages the Church has responded with gratitude and celebrated those who have gone before us in the Christian way and in whose company we journey.

Here, at St. Michael's, we play our part in giving thanks for the inspiration we gain from holy men and women — both known and unknown — who have been lights of the world in their own generation and whose commitment to Christ has often led to danger, unpopularity and loss of life.

For all the saints who showed your love

in how they lived and where they moved,

for mindful women, caring men,

accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name, whose faith increased the Saviour's fame, who sang your songs and shared your word,

accept our gratitude, good Lord.

(John L. Bell b 1 949)

The Gathering

Hymn

The president may say In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to confession

The saints were faithful unto death

and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever. As we celebrate their joy, let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his mercy.

(or)

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin,

let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

All Most merciful God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

On your mercy

forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

(or)

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You are loving to all,

and your mercy is over all your creation: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Your faithful servants bless your name and speak of the glory of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The president says

May God our Father forgive you your sins, and bring you to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever..

Al! Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Al! Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

The Collect is said.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end the reader may say This is the word of the Lord.

Al! Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Gospel Reading Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

All Alleluia

(or, in Lent)

Praise to you, 0 Christ, King of eternal glory. I have called you friends, says the Lord, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

All Praise to you, 0 Christ, King of eternal glory.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All Glory to you, 0 Lord.

At the end.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All Praise to you, 0 Christ.

Sermon

The president says

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed

All We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshippedand glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(or)

All We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family

in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy (or) Lord, hear us.

All hear our prayer. (or) Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

May the God of peace sanctify you:

may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Hymn

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

The president takes the bread and wine.

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;

make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

All Amen

(or)

Eternal God,

we give you thanks for the triumph of Christ in the life of your servant N.

Accept this sacrifice of thanks and praise

and give us grace to run our course with faith, that we may come with all your saints to the eternal banquet in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer (B)

The Lord be with you (or) The Lord is here.

All and also with you. (or) His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The following, or an alternative extended preface, may be used here.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

We rejoice in the glorious splendour of your majesty for you have given us a share with N

in the inheritance of the saints in light. In the darkness of this passing age they proclaim the glory of your kingdom. Chosen as lights in the world, they surround our steps as we journey on towards the city of eternal ligh

where they sing the everlasting song of triumph.

In communion with angels and archangels and all who have served you on earth and worship you now in heaven, we raise our voices to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and saying:

Al! Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna n the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in this, the night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

All When we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup,

so that we, in the company of Michael, Paul and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

We turn to page 13 for The Lord's Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer (E)

The Lord be with you (or) The Lord is here.

Al! and also with you. (or) His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

Al! We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

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in the inheritance of the saints in light. In the darkness of this passing age they proclaim the glory of your kingdom. Chosen as lights in the world, they surround our steps as we journey on towards the city of eternal light where they sing the everlasting song of triumph. In communion with angels and archangels and all who have served you on earth and worship you now in heaven, we raise our voices to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and saying:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Christ is the bread of life:

All When we eat this bread and drink thk cup,

we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Lord of all life,

help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with Michael, Paul and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, 0 loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

With saints and martyrs through the ages, we pray, Lord, in the words you gave us

All Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

nst us.

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin agai Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei

Al! Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

(or)

Al! Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,

and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The president and people receive communion.

Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies

Amen.

During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

Hymn

Prayer after Commurrilora Silence is kept.

All Father of all, you gathered us here

around the table of your Son;

we have shared this meal with the saints and the whole fellowship of the household of God. In that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed,

gather people of every race, language and way of We to share in the one eternal banquet of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

The Dismissal

Hymn

Blessing

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. (or)

May Christ who makes saints of sinners, who has transformed those we remember today,

raise and strengthen you, that you may transform the world; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. All In the name of Christ. Amen.

(or, from Easter Day to Pentecost)

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The ministers and people depart.

A Prayer before leaving church May the infinite and glorious Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

direct our life in good works,

and after our journey through this world,

grant us eternal rest with his saints.

Amen.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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